

## ABSTRACT OF DISCLOSURE

In a coin configuration detection method and a coin identification sensor that magnetically detect the coin configuration, coin configuration detection is enabled to be accurately performed. Moreover, in a coin identification apparatus, the coin identification accuracy is improved. In a coin configuration detection method (coin identification sensor 1) that magnetically detects the configuration of a coin 2 to identify the kind and/or the authenticity of the coin 2, a magnetic flux change in the vicinity of the surface of the coin 2 is detected by a detection coil 7 in which a coil central line is along the surface of the coin 2 and a coil peripheral surface is locally opposed to the surface of the coin 2 while an AC magnetic field along the surface of the coin 2 is generated in the interior of the coin 2 and/or in the surface space of the coin 2. Moreover, the coin identification apparatus identifies the coin 2 based on the detection signal of the coin identification sensor 1.